

Notes of WAAC April 24, 2015 Teleconference

David Maltman, Policy Analyst
Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council:

The Fall WAAC Membership Meeting will be held on **October 9** from 9 to 3:30 at the SeaTac Airport Conference Center. You are welcome to send me your ideas for topics, possible speakers, and other items for the Steering Committee that will meet in late summer or early fall to set the final agenda.

Kate Orville and Beth Ellen Davis:

“Caring for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in Your Practice: Practical Strategies” – a Continuing Medical Education offering for primary care providers and their staff Saturday, October 10, 2015, Seattle Children’s Wright Auditorium. 7.75 CMEs- \$100 registration fee. Links to brochure will be posted by early May at: <http://www.seattlechildrens.org/healthcare-professionals/education/cme/calendar/>

LEND received funding to develop a conference for primary care providers on building a medical home for children with autism. Dr. Beth Ellen Davis, Dr. Kathy TeKolste and Kate Orville have been working with Kathie Kohorn, CME coordinator at Seattle Children’s and a diverse planning committee to develop a program that will entice providers to attend and help them provide comprehensive care, including access to ABA and other needed interventions.

Mendy Minjarez, Sugely Sanchez and Dawn Sidell from WAAC are on the planning committee as well as strong PCP voices from across WA Dr Jill Dudik-Bross from Moses Lake, Dr. Jennifer Polley from Centralia, and Winnie Lee, PA from a community health clinic in Bellevue.

We have secured two well known and respected national experts on autism as keynote speakers. Dr. Paul Carbone, pediatrician and parent of a child with autism from the University of Utah will give an overview of how primary care providers can optimize care for children with ASD, as well a talk on ruling out medical causes of challenging behaviors. Developmental Pediatrician Patricia Manning-Courtney, Medical Director of the Autism Clinic at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital will give two talks. The first talk will be on medical management for common issues like GI and sleep and the second will be on evidence-based interventions for ASD including Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA).

We appreciate the expertise of WAAC members who will also speak at the conference. Arzu Forough will address medical necessity, prior authorization and appeals; Mendy Minjarez will address practical behavioral strategies to assist parents with common dilemmas; Dawn Sidell is organizing a panel with practical tips for how clinicians can set up their practices from scheduling to procedures to linking families to community resources. Additional sessions will be on screening for co-morbid mental health issues; nutrition, autism and complementary therapies; and crisis intervention.

Seattle Children's Wright Auditorium can seat up to 170 people comfortably. We wanted to make the conference available to a wider audience so we will also have live webcasting so people can watch from their own computer. Handouts will be available online and we will make recordings available for later viewing too.

Our ASKs: 1) share information about the conference with primary care providers when the brochure is available (and for anyone who wants to watch online); 2) we want to identify/develop resource handouts to share at the conference and online. This would include key community resources for the state and by region and how to access them. We are also interested in identifying key multilingual/multicultural resources for providers to share with their families. If you have suggestions or are interested in helping with this, please email Kate Orville at orville@uw.edu.

Christopher Jones, PhD, BCBA-D
President, Washington Association for Behavior Analysis:

On Saturday, April 25, Governor Inslee signs into law SB 5488 which will require licensure for behavior analysts in Washington state and certification for all direct care technicians providing ABA therapy. The law will go into effect on July 1, 2015 meaning that behavior analysts and technicians will have until then to go through the licensure/certification process. Over the coming months, the Secretary of the Department of Health will appoint the Behavior Analyst advisory board who will take the next year or more to write the rules and requirements of the law and submit them to the secretary for approval (after testimony, etc- it's a public process).

Through talks with parent advocacy proponents (Arzu Forough, Diana Stadden, etc), WABA agreed to host 3-4 workshops (both in person and via webinar) to help provide additional training to Washington behavior analysts on mental health issues in autism and other developmental disorders, how to identify them, and when it would be appropriate to refer those clients to other providers when treatment is outside the scope of ABA.

Thank you everyone for your support through this process of getting this bill passed. Your knowledge and advice has been a blessing. We are looking forward to the next steps.

Dawn Sidell, RN BSN
Executive Director, Northwest Autism Center:

Northwest Autism Center has moved to Riverpoint Campus. Our new address is 528 East Spokane Falls Blvd., Spokane, WA 99204. We run two early intensive ABA clinics at the new site, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Five children are enrolled in each session. All therapy assistants either currently have their Master's or are pursuing a Master's along with their BCBA. We provide the required supervision for their hands-on experience needed for eligibility to sit for their BCBA board exam. We have 2 interns – one is a clinical psychologist and one is a Field One OT student.

Northwest Autism Center has been working with Whitworth University to help them develop an ABA educational track for BCBA preparation, they hope to unveil it in the Fall. We will be establishing a satellite site on the Whitworth campus in August, which will allow us to provide clinical internships to eligible university students.

Northwest Autism Center recently hired a BCBA with an Ed. Psych background out of Los Angeles. He is our new program manager for direct services and will be helping expand our TEAM Outreach program to local districts – providing training/coaching/consultation to school district staff. Dana Stevens, Director, Clinical Services for Northwest Autism Center and myself are members of Spokane Police Department's Mental Health Partner's Steering Committee.

We are also on the subcommittee responsible for planning the first annual first responder's conference in Spokane – to be held July 28th and 29th. Dana continues to regularly provide training on developmental disabilities and autism as part of the CIT (crisis intervention training) being provided for all law enforcement officers in Spokane. In celebration of April Autism Awareness Month, we just launched a new website at the beginning of the month.

A parent whose child is a graduate of our former Domino Program has coordinated Spokane's first Autism Walk to be held tomorrow morning and we presented a wall hanging to the City Council, in partnership with ASW and ISAAC Foundation at the Mayor's Proclamation last Monday.

Patricia Matestic, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Director, UW Autism Center Tacoma:

UWAC Tacoma is currently offering the following clinic services:

1. Diagnostic ASD evals for children and adults - including an interdisciplinary ADOS assessment
2. Outpatient Speech Therapy Services
3. Limited clinic based ABA services - including parent coaching, client focused skills coaching, and short term consultation
4. Parent and Professional trainings including Stepping Stones (parents of young child with new diagnoses) and ABA Bootcamp (learn basic ABA principles) this summer
5. Social Skills Groups for children ages 4-7 beginning in September

Contact Angela Belt [206-616-8642](tel:206-616-8642) for more info or go to our website @ <http://depts.washington.edu/uwautism/index.php>

Chuck Cowan, MD

Emeritus Clinical Professor, Department of Pediatrics

Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, UW School of Medicine:

1. Personal – I've handed the reins of medical director at the Seattle Children's Autism Center to Dr. Soo-Jeong Kim.
2. I'm going to continue to work with HCA doing training around the state for new COEs. Recent trainings have been in Spokane, Wenatchee and SE Seattle (Rainier Valley community clinic). Plans for future training will be in Mt. Vernon and other areas of inadequate COEs. (Maybe Tri-cities). The COE system continues to expand as increasing resources for ASD diagnosis and ABA prescribing become available.
3. Children's Autism Center is going to trial an intensive week of ASD assessments with the entire center working only on assessments for one week during the summer. We continue to try new models to decrease our formidable waitlist.
4. The Burnett Center for Adults with ASD and related disorders is celebrating it's first year anniversary.

Sally N. Stuart, PhD, MSW
Interdisciplinary Training Director, LEND
Clinical Associate Professor, Social Work
CTU/CHDD/University of Washington:

Presentations by LEND Fellows will be on June 1st in room CD150, Experimental Education Unit at the Center for Human Development and Disabilities. If you have questions, contact Nancy Saunders at charbert@us.edu 206 221 6525.

Mendy B. Minjarez, PhD
Clinical Psychologist | Autism Center
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Seattle Children's:

We plan to open our Early Intensive Applied Behavior Analysis Day Treatment Program this summer. We have hired our new BCBA, Tara Godinho, and are excited to get up and running. This program will follow the same model as the other short-term ABA day treatment programs around the state (e.g., NW Autism Center, Children's Village/Catholic Family Services in Yakima, Providence in Everett, Lakeside Autism Center) and is in response to the HCA's request for such a program.

Monica Meyers, Community Autism Network:

We are currently working on Autism and Law Enforcement and the idea of making SMART 9---1---1 a countywide service for all who have special accommodations for law enforcement intervention. For more information, go to: <http://safety.smart911.com/what---is---smart911/>

We are in communication with a local (Portland/Vancouver) hospital system, Legacy, to Promote access and appropriate medical services to individuals with autism; Internal Medicine, GI and Neurology. Our hope is to work in partnership with the UW Adult Autism Clinic and provide satellite support similar to the U of N. Mex. Project ECHO at: <http://echo.unm.edu/>

This fall, we will be starting a three county rotating training series and networking opportunity for school districts and then adult service providers to build capacity and community sustainability. The trainings are modeled from efforts of ESD 112 the Regional Autism Consulting Cadre's work that was provided here in SW Washington 1999 to 2011. Part of this effort is to consider the impact of new CMS Home and Community Based Services Rule on individuals with ASD and best practice, research based strategies, and supports.

Sharon McLaughlin, Battle Ground Public School Special Education Teacher, is our Executive Director. For more information about CAN and the work we are providing to our community, please contact Monica Meyer at: Mmeyer0801@gmail.com or check out my website at: <http://monicameyer.com>